

Criteria for Receiving Exemplary Performance Recognition

Exemplary performance for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs is defined as exceeding all of the applicable Program Year (PY) federal core performance measures by ten percent (10%). The federal core performance measures are negotiated and approved by the AWIB and are incorporated in the State Plan.

Nine Star Enterprises, Inc., a WIA-Youth program grantee, is the only WIA grantee who met these criteria for PY05. Nine Star's Youth Education and Employment Services (YEE^S) project equips at-risk youth with improved academic skills, work readiness competencies, and job placement through innovative instructional techniques, computer technology, individual strategies, and demand-driven job placement. They prepare program participants to "*Get a job! Keep a job! Advance on the job!*"

The following is a table which shows the rate at which Nine Star exceeded the federal core performance measures for PY05:

Description of Measure	Federal Measure	Federal Measure + 10%	Nine Star's Measure
Younger Youth Diploma	64%	70.4%	96%
Younger Youth Skill Attainment	84%	92.4%	92.5%
Younger Youth Retention	61%	67.1%	81.8%
Older Youth Entered Employment	70%	77.0%	80.8%
Employment + Credential	51%	56.1%	56.3%
Older Youth Retention	72%	79.2%	85.7%
Earnings Change	\$3,600	\$3,960	\$6,125

Other key points regarding Nine Star's performance in PY05 include:

- Exceeded the number to be served as defined in their PY05 grant agreement by 101 participants,
- Served the youth at a cost of \$1500 per participant,
- Served nearly one-third of all youth served in the state youth WIA program,
- 63% of the participants served were minority,
- Contributed to the performance of other grantees through GED and onsite training for other grantees.